

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 10-18 are pending.

The Applicants request the Examiner to provide an indication that the certified priority document (filed on January 2, 2002 in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/442,147, to which the present application claims benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 120) has been safely received.

The Applicants request the Examiner to initial and return copies of the PTO-1449 Forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 15, 2002 as an indication that the documents have been properly considered. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the PTO-1449 Forms are enclosed.

Claims 10-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ma et al U.S. Patent No. 6,347,313 (Ma).

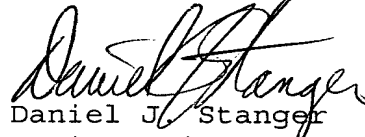
The Applicants note that Ma is not prior art to the present invention, in light of Ma's U.S. filing date of March 1, 1999, which is subsequent to the foreign priority date of the present application (November 19, 1998). To perfect the Applicants' rights in this foreign priority date, an accurate translation of the foreign priority document is enclosed,

accompanied by a statement of verification from the translator. Thus, the rejection over Ma has been overcome.

There being no other outstanding issues, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel J. Stanger".

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